

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1821 without my signature.

I share the author's desire to increase the number of trained health care professionals in California. As we project the workforce needs in California's future, it is undeniable that more nurses will be needed to serve our growing population.

Consistent with available federal Workforce Investment Act funding, my Administration is continuing to fund nurse training programs around the State. Additionally, I have called upon my Cabinet to develop a comprehensive plan of action to maximize funding and education opportunities through better coordination with the community college system, the Department of Education, private foundations and the hospital community.

Legislatively mandating this program removes flexibility to adjust to a decline in federal funds or changes in California's workforce needs.

For these reasons I am returning AB 1821 without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger